

SERTULARIA FASTIGIATA LINNAEUS, 1758 (POLYZOA):
PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.
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1. This application deals with the nomenclature of two somewhat similar species in the polyzoan genus *Bugula* and, in effect, proposes the conservation of the names used for them by Hincks in the 'British Marine Polyzoa' (1880) and Ryland in the 'British species of *Bugula*' (1960). The species are:

- (a) *B. plumosa* (Pallas): with spirally arranged branches, buff coloured in life and when dried; and distributed from the Mediterranean through western Europe, possibly reaching southern Norway, but certainly rare in northern Britain;
- (b) *B. purpuroincta* Norman: tufted, but branches not spiral, drying a purplish colour; and distributed from northern Britain into Arctic latitudes.

2. *Sertularia fastigiata* was introduced by Linnaeus (1758 : 815) with short diagnosis and references to Ray and to Ellis. The reference to Ellis (1755 : 33, pl. 18; the Soft-feathered Coralline) is particularly important. Harmer (1930 : 81-84) has established that 41 of the 44 species of *Sertularia* included by Linnaeus in *Systema Naturae* (ed. 10) "are based solely or principally on Ellis". *S. fastigiata* is one of these. Ellis' work was outstanding for its time, especially in the excellence of its plates. Pl. 18 in conjunction with his description establishes that the Soft-feathered Coralline, and, therefore, *S. fastigiata* Linnaeus, is the species known in current literature as *Bugula plumosa* (Pallas).

3. Ellis (1755 : 33) gave the following diagnosis for the Soft-feathered Coralline: *Corallina cellifera erecta ramosissima tenerrima & plumosa*. Pallas (1766 : 66), presumably because he judged the adjective *plumosa* to be more appropriate to Ellis' diagnosis, substituted it in place of the name *fastigiata* proposed by Linnaeus. Thus, under his genus *Cellularia*, he introduced *C. plumosa* with references to Ray and Ellis and to *Sertularia fastigiata* Linnaeus.

It thus seems clear beyond any doubt that *plumosa* Pallas (1766) is a junior synonym of *fastigiata* Linnaeus (1758).

4. Fabricius (1780 : 445) recorded *Sertularia fastigiata* Linnaeus from Greenland. The identity of Fabricius' species is a matter for doubt (see Norman, 1868 : 219); but the question is fortunately unimportant in the present context, for it cannot have been Linnaeus' species (see para. 1 (a), *Bugula plumosa*).

5. In the ensuing years, European writers used either of the names *fastigiata* and *plumosa* (see synonymy given by Johnston, 1838 : 294). The material available to some of these authors, however, did not belong to *fastigiata*, but to the more boreal species later to be named *Bugula purpuroincta* (para. 1 (b)). Thus the actual specimens on which Johnston based his accounts of *Acamarchis plumosa* (1838 : 294) and *Cellularia plumosa* (1847 : 341), and Dalyell (1847 :

236) his description of *Cellularia fastigiata*, belonged to the more boreal species. Alder (1856 : 149), however, distinguished the two species, and applied the name *fastigiata* to the more northerly distributed of the two.

6. Norman (1868 : 149) quite properly introduced the new name *purpuratincta* for *Bugula fastigiata* Alder, recognising that *Sertularia fastigiata* Linnaeus "is our *B. plumosa*".

7. The name *fastigiata* evidently remained associated with the boreal species, for Hincks (1880 : 89) lapsed into using it in the discussion of the species he had introduced as *Bugula purpuratincta*. No doubt it was mainly for this reason that he employed Pallas' name *plumosa* for the more southern "Soft-feathered Coralline", although he did query the identification of *S. fastigiata* L. with *Bugula plumosa*.

8. All recent writers (e.g. Ryland, 1960; Prenant & Bobin, 1966) have followed Hincks in calling the more southern species *Bugula plumosa* (Pallas).

9. Ryland (1960) correctly named the boreal species *Bugula purpuratincta* Norman; but Kluge (1962), and Prenant & Bobin (1966) following him, referred to this species as *Bugula fastigiata* (Dalyell). Dalyell (1847 : 236), in fact, (incorrectly) named his species *Sertularia fastigiata* Linnaeus (para. 5 above).

10. The name *fastigiata* cannot be used for *Bugula purpuratincta* Norman, as it is properly the name of the species currently known as *B. plumosa*. On the other hand, having been recently though incorrectly applied to *B. purpuratincta*, it would be confusing in the extreme to transfer this name to another species; especially to replace a name so well-established as *B. plumosa*. The only satisfactory solution appears to be for the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to suppress the name *Sertularia fastigiata* Linnaeus.

11. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore requested:

- (a) to suppress for purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for the Law of Homonymy, the specific name *fastigiata* Linnaeus, 1758, as introduced in the binomen *Sertularia fastigiata*;
- (b) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology: *plumosa* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Cellularia plumosa*;
- (c) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology: *purpuratincta* Norman, 1868, as published in the binomen *Bugula purpuratincta*;
- (d) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology: *fastigiata* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Sertularia fastigiata* (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (a) above).

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